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# Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 07767 061142Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P R 060754Z JUL 77
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5614
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

S E C R E T HONG KONG 7767

EXDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PGOV, CH, US
SUBJ: LI HSIEN-NIEN STATEMENT ON NORMALIZATION

REFS: A) PEKING 1330; B) HONG KONG 7638; C) PEKING 1331

1. NCNA'S CHIEF REPORTER FOR HONG KONG SZETO KEUNG CONFIRMED USLO'S VIEW (REF A) ON JULY 5 THAT VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN'S COMMENTS TO ADMIRAL ZUMWALT ON SINO-U.S. NORMALIZATION WAS CHINA'S OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S ASIA SOCIETY SPEECH AND THE PRESIDENT'S JUNE 30 PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS. AS USLO ALSO NOTED, SZETO ADDED THAT THIS IS THE FIRST AUTHORITATIVE NCNA REPORT ON NORMALIZATION FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND THE FIRST TIME PRC LEADERS' STATEMENTS ON SINO-U.S. RELATIONS HAVE BEEN CARRIED BY NCNA SINCE HUA'S TOAST AT THE FEBRUARY 22, 1976 BANQUET FOR FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON AND TENG HSIAO-PING'S REMARKS DURING THE DECEMBER 1975 FORD VISIT. LI'S STATEMENT, HOWEVER, GOES BEYOND THE TWO TOASTS WHICH WERE LIMITED TO REAFFIRMING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE BY REITERATING THE THREE PRINCIPLES AND CHINA'S POSITION THAT THE MANNER OF TAIWAN'S LIBERATION IS AN INTERNAL
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AFFAIR.

2. A COMMENTARY IN THE JULY 5 "NEW EVENING POST" ECHOED SZETO'S COMMENTS BY CALLING LI'S STATEMENT "A REPLY TO CARTER AND VANCE" IN A "DIALOGUE ACROSS THE OCEAN". IT ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH BOTH LI AND CHI TENG-KUAI HAD ADDRESSED THE QUESTION OF SINO-U.S. NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH SEVERAL

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UNOFFICIAL U.S. DELEGATIONS TO CHINA THIS YEAR, NCNA DID NOT REPORT THEIR CONVERSATIONS. THEREFORE, THIS REPORT WAS "WORTHY OF ATTENTION". THE COMMENTARY WENT ON TO SAY THAT "ON THIS ISSUE (TAIWAN'S LIBERATION), THE MOST YOU (TH U.S.) CAN DO IS 'HOPE', BUT YOU CANNOT RECEIVE A 'GUARANTEE'". "TALKING ABOUT GUARANTEES, CHINA GUARANTEES TO DEFINITELY LIBERATE TAIWAN...ACCORDING TO OUR OWN SCHEDULE AND METHOD. THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO GUARANTEE IS THE U.S. -- GUARANTEE NOT TO INTERFERE IN CHINA'S LIBERATION OF TAIWAN".

3. THE "NEW EVENING POST" PREVIOUSLY CRITICIZED THE USE OF THE TERM "SHOULD" IN DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER'S JUNE 11 OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE SPEECH, CALLING IT AN ATTEMPT TO "INSTRUCT" OR "GIVE ADVICE" TO CHINA WHICH IS NEITHER NEEDED NOR APPRECIATED. IT THEREFORE APPEARS THAT THERE IS NO OBJECTION TO THE USE OF THE TERM "CONCERN" (WHICH IS SEEN AS AN EXPRESSION OF ONE'S OWN WISH) OR "HOPE" (AS USED BY THE PRESIDENT ON JUNE 30).

4. COMMENT: AS INDICATED IN OUR CONVERSATION WITH TA KUNG PAO PUBLISHER FEI I-MIN LAST WEEK (REF B), THE CHINESE HAVE PREDICTABLY CHOSEN TO FOCUS ON THOSE PORTIONS OF THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH WHICH ARE COMPATIBLE WITH PEKING'S VIEW THAT THE TAIWAN QUESTION IS AN INTERNAL MATTER TO BE DECIDED BY THE CHINESE THEMSELVES. LI DID NOT REPEAT EARLIER ASSERTIONS BY PRC LEADERS THAT FORCE WOULD BE NECESSARY, HOW-

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EVER, AND SPEAKING MUCH LESS OFFICIALLY FEI TRIED TO ASSURE US THAT PEKING DOES NOT WANT TO LIBERATE TAIWAN BY MILITARY MEANS IF A DIALOGUE COULD BE INITIATED BETWEEN THE PRC AND TAIWAN. THE EXCHANGE OF STATEMENTS BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND VICE PREMIER LI THUS BREAKS NO NEW GROUND BUT DOES SERVE TO SHIFT THE FOCUS TO MORE POSITIVE ELEMENTS OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.
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# Message Attributes

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